have consistently championed the cause of the oppressed majority in South Africa and given considerable material, moral and dimplomatic assistance to the liberation struggle.

**Indians held hostage by Iraqi forces**

2554. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Wll the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 15 Indian were held hostage by Iraqi forces during the Gulf war ;

(b) if so, the total number of Indians held hostage by Iraqi forces; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for the early release of Indians ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) Around 60 Indians detained by Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait were released after government of India took up the matter with the Iraqi authorities. There are no definitive reports of any other Indian under detention by Iraq.

**American stand on Indo-Pak relation**

2555. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs Reginald Bartholomew Visited New Delhi during last month after visiting Pakistan ;

(b) if so, the matters discussed with him by the Indian leaders ;

(c) whether during his visit to Pakistan, he told Pakistan's President that it was not Washington's policy to make India a regional hegemonic power in South Asia and in the process for sake its 40 year long friendship with Islamabad ;

(d) whether during his talks with Pakstan, the latter conveyed to him that it would not compromise on its nuclear programme under pressure from any quarter; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Govern ment of India to the US Government's stand on the various issues particularly on Non-Prolifertion Treaty in the context of the Pakistani nuclear prog-gamme ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Discussions were held on matters of mutual concern including the security environment in the region.

(c) and (d) Government have seen Pakistani press reports to this effect.

(e) Government have noted the US Government's stand. Government's position on the Non-Proliferation Treaty remains consistent.

**International pressure on India for signing Non-Proliferation Treaty**

2556. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries and international organisations which have either formally or informally but publicly suggested to India to sign the NPT ;

(b) the response of the Government of India to these suggestions; and

(c) what steps Govern-nent have taken or propose to take to counter this increasing but pernicious pressure on India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADH AVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) The NPT signatory States have called for universalisation of the Treaty at NPT review conferences and other international fora and in .this connection they have in general terms been urging those States which are not parties to the NPT to sign the Treaty. However, we are not aware of any specific public demarche singling out India.

(b) and (c) We have made known our principled and consistent stand on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in the context of its being discriminatory and iniquitous.

**चीन द्वारा अरुणाचल प्रदेश में हेलीपैड का बनाया जाना**

2557. श्री रणजीत सिंह :
डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 14 सितम्बर, 1991 के "जनसत्ता" में "अरुणाचल प्रदेश में चीन ने एक और हेलीपेड